

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has advised that abstracts to foreign patents are not to be reported under the heading of "Foreign Patent Documents" and that unpublished patent applications are to be reported as "Other References".

Applicants have submitted herewith a revised PTO-1449 (and fee) making these corrections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,274,648 to Meguriya et al. The Examiner argues that Meguriya et al. discloses a silicone rubber composition containing elastic microballoons similar to component (B) of the claimed invention and that in the preferred embodiment said rubber composition comprises (i) alkenyl group-functionalized polysiloxane having up to 1,200 repeat units, (ii) an organohydrogenpolysiloxane, (iii) a hydrosilylation catalyst, and (iv) 0.5 to 10 weight parts of microballoons. The Examiner also argues that component (c) of the claimed invention is also anticipated insofar as Meguriya provides for the incorporation of 0.01 to 30 parts of an inorganic thixotropic agent. The Examiner states that the physical state of components (i) and (ii) are not expressly stated however, the Examiner concludes that (i) and (ii) which have up to 1,200 and 300 repeat units respectively are inherently liquids and hence claim 1 is fully anticipated.

Applicants believe that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes this rejection. Meguriya et al. does not teach or suggest that component (B) should have a larger mean particle size than component (C). Applicants believe that this amendment does not introduce new matter into the claims. Support for this amendment may be found in paragraph 20 of the instant application.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2 and 3 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, Applicants have added Claim 7, which is Claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Since Applicant

believes that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Meguriya et al., Applicant believes that no further amendments are necessary to claim 3.

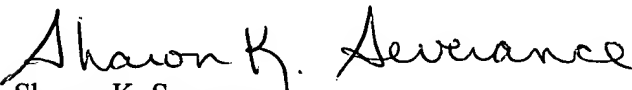
The Examiner has indicated that claims 4-6 are allowed because the Examiner could not ascertain a motivation for adding a fatty acid to the compositions described in Meguriya.

Applicants have added claims 8-10. Support for these claims may be found in paragraph 13 of the instant application. These claims are being added to further claim the invention as defined in the instant application. These claims are not being presented for a substantial reason relating to patentability.

Applicant believes that the instant invention is novel and unobvious. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow the claims to issue.

The present response is being submitted within the three-month period of time for response to the outstanding office action. Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary however, in the event that such an extension is necessary, you are authorized to charge deposit account number 04-1520 any fees necessary to maintain the pendency of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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